

PURPOSE

To distinguish humans from other living beings with their power to think.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson students will be able to:

1. Recognize the power **to think** as one only we humans have.
2. Apply their power to think to grow in excellence.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- ***Dignity Dan's Mystery Maze*** worksheet (see Materials)
- ***I Invent*** worksheet (see Materials)
- ***Great Innovators: "The Wright Brothers and the Airplane," StoryBots*** video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1LCUtPx73o>)

VOCABULARY

- **to think**: the ability to know and connect ideas about us and the world

PROCEDURE

Step 1: Review the previous lesson. Act out for students a series of emotions [love, sadness, joy], then ask the following questions:

- What emotion is this?
- How do you know?

In the last lesson, we learned further about who we are as human persons. We learned that, in addition to having the power to use our senses, with which we learn about the world, we also have the power to feel emotions. Our emotions are our reactions to the world.

We humans also have two special powers that no other living beings have, and we will start to learn about these powers today.

Step 2: Teach the power to think.

Have students complete the ***Dignity Dan's Mystery Maze*** worksheet.

Once students have completed the worksheet, ask: What sort of abilities did we have to use to make this project? Gather student answers, then explain: One of the special powers that only humans have is the power to think. This is a power that we do not share with animals or plants.

Write on the board:

- **to think**

Explain: Our power to think means that we do not only know individual, specific details about the world, as we learn with our senses. Our sight picks up specific colors; our hearing picks up specific sounds. Our power to think gives us the ability to think about all of these things in our mind as general ideas! No other living being has this power!

Step 3: Practice understanding the power of ideas.

Show students the [*Great Innovators: “The Wright Brothers and the Airplane,” StoryBots*](#) video.

Ask:

- What role did the Wright brothers’ power to think play in his inventing?
- Why is it important for humans to be able to think of and create different inventions?

Explain: Using our power to think for the good of other people is one of the most excellent ways that we can use it. One way that people over human history have contributed to the good of others is by inventing objects and technology that serves their needs.

Step 4: Summarize: In this lesson, we have learned about the first of two special human powers—the power to think, which lets us know and connect ideas about ourselves and all of reality. This power lets us go beyond the specific details we know with our senses and start to see how everything about us and reality fits together, through the many ideas that we come to know and hold in our minds. In the next lesson, we will learn about the second special human power.

FOLLOW-UP & HOMEWORK

Ask students to complete the [*Invent*](#) worksheet.

SUPPLEMENTS

None.

Name: _____



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DIGNITY DAN'S MYSTERY MAZE

Directions: Get Dignity Dan through the maze.

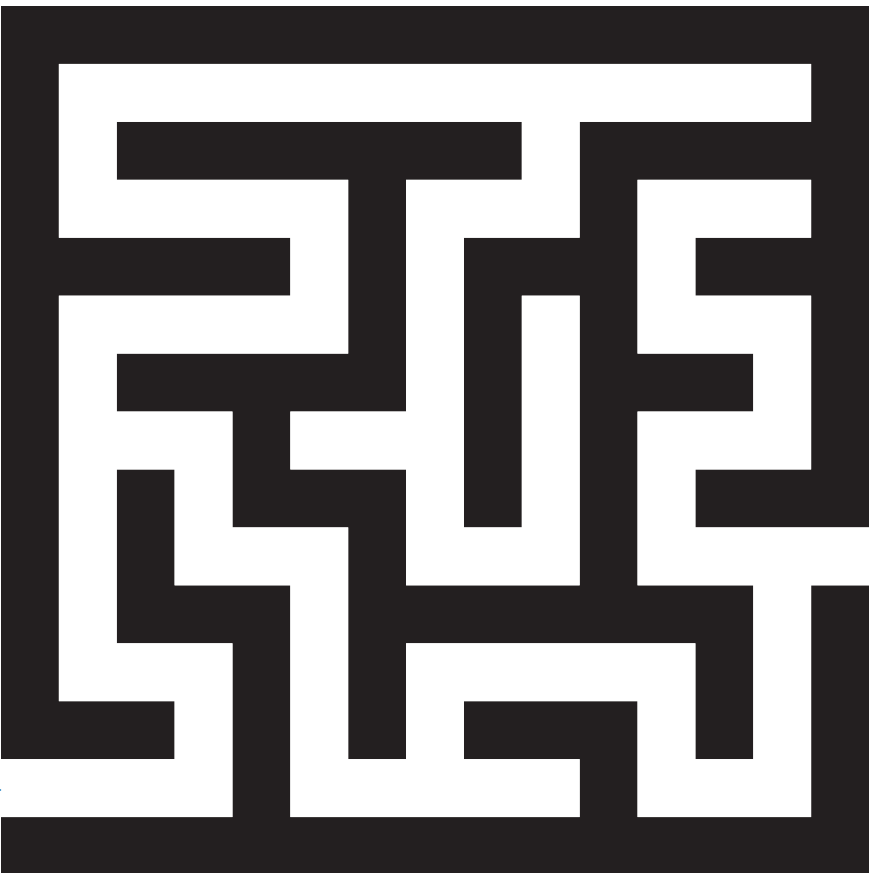


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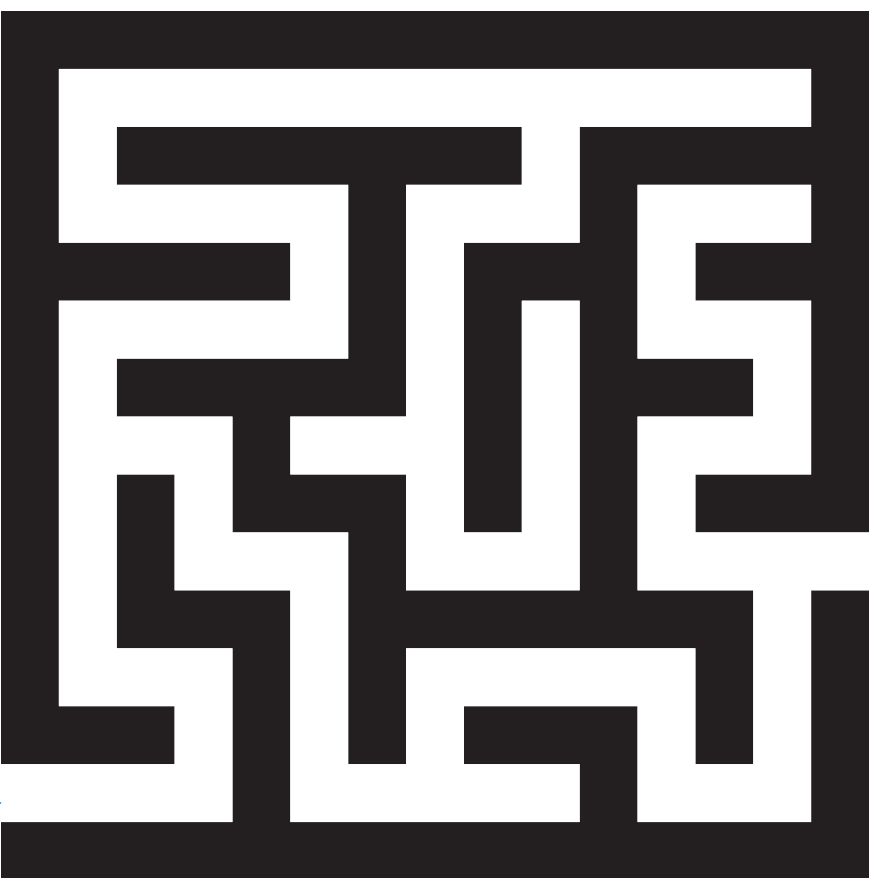


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I INVENT

Name: _____

Directions: If you could take an existing invention, and change it in some way, what would you change? Draw your answer.



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Name: _____

Directions: If you could take an existing invention, and change it in some way, what would you change? Draw your answer.